



Volume #23 Issue #1
October 18, 2017

Current in the Creek

2018 Creek Camp Sessions:

I: June 24-29

II: July 8-13

Apply today!

[sites.allegheny.edu/
creekconnections/creek-camp/](https://sites.allegheny.edu/creekconnections/creek-camp/)

2017 French Creek Cleanup

By Kala Mahen, Allegheny College Student

On Saturday, September 9, over 760 registered volunteers arrived at Sprague Farm & Brew Works in Venango, PA, to kick off the 25th annual French Creek Cleanup. Local schools, businesses, families, Allegheny students, and many more contributed their time in collecting 32,844 pounds of trash from French Creek, its tributaries and the surrounding watershed. The weather was sunny and beautiful with many smiling faces cleaning up our local waterways. Food, entertainment, and laughs were shared by all who participated, including the creekers!



This year's prize for the most unusual item was given to the City of Meadville for finding a My Little Pony doll. The French Creek Community Theater was the civic group with the most volunteers at 43 amazing people! The civic group collecting the most trash was the WPC Land Stewardship Volunteers with 6,550 pounds. The coveted Traveling Hellbender Trophy was awarded to Ainsworth Pet Nutrition for the most weight collected in the corporate division with 4,540 pounds! Many thanks to the French Creek Valley Conservancy for organizing a fun and rewarding event!



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Izaak Walton League: Stream Selfies

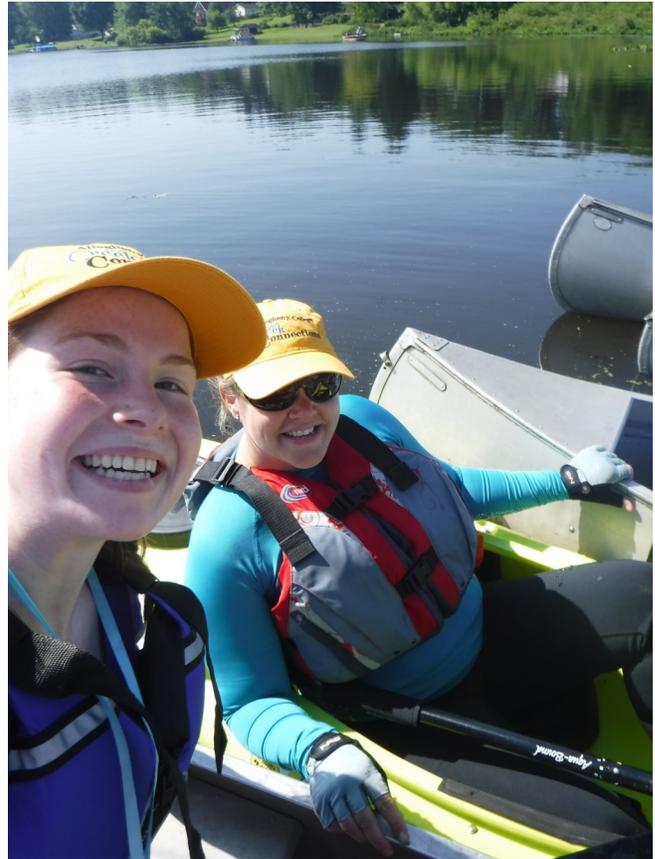
The Izaak Walton League has been a protector of the environment for future generations since its founding in 1922. They have many things that can help in your study of creeks/streams and this includes selfies!

Creek Connections encourages all participating schools to take a STREAM SELFIE the next time you're doing water chemistry testing at your site!

To highlight and encourage stream monitoring, the Izaak Walton League is encouraging stream monitors to take a photo of their stream site... a Stream Selfie! Take a photo of yourself (and/or your class) at your stream site OR just the stream site, and upload it to the SciStarter site (you'll automatically go to that site when you go to streamselfie.org). SciStarter is a Citizen Science website. There you'll upload the photo of yourself (your group) and your creek site and answer the prompts (questions). Toward the end of the questions, you'll see "Are you doing this as part of an organization or chapter?" Please answer YES. The next screen will ask you which organization and allow you to enter "Creek Connections, Allegheny College."

This is something new for the Izaak Walton League and for Creek Connections, but we should be able to see all of the Creek Connections sites AND get the word out to others who care about

streams/creeks/streams that we care, too!! We'll be looking for your STREAM SELFIE!



Meet a Module

By Bri O'Neil-Hankle, Allegheny College Student

Many educational activities come with the Streamside Critters Module, such as Adaption Adventure, where students learn about wildlife adaption to different environments. Another activity is Web of Life, where students make a living food web by linking themselves with yarn to learn about their role in the ecosystem. In A Beaver Pelt Tale, students learn about the important physical adaptations of beavers as well as how the Native Americans and Europeans had an impact on the beaver population. This module includes many more fun activities! Furthermore, this module comes with many pelts and animal skulls. The module also contains an abundance of rubber tracks and scat and field guides to help students learn signs of the animals. To use this module, check its availability on the Creek Connections website and then complete the online request form.



Feature Creature

By Grace O'Malley, Allegheny College Student



I am a darter that is commonly found in French Creek, belonging to the family *Percidae*. I am a long, narrow fish with dark spots along the side of my body. I have a very wide habitat range that includes southern Canada, much of the eastern United States such as New York, Ohio, Indiana as well as the Great Lakes. Typically, you can find me buried in the sand hiding from the trout and bass that feed on me. I also use this hiding spot to catch my favorite food, macroinvertebrates. When they float or swim by, I quickly dart out to grab them and return to my hiding spot. In the past few years, my population has been in decline due to siltation, or when an excess of fine particles are suspended in the water, as well as a decrease in overall water quality.

Who am I? *Find the answer on back page.*

Testing Tip

By Bella Petitta, Allegheny College Student

Why the Waste Bottles?

After an experiment is finished, all waste water must be dumped in the waste water bottle! Distilled water that is used to rinse out glassware should also go into the waste bottle. Why can't I dump it out in the grass or in the stream? Water that has been used for testing most likely contains chemicals. These chemicals are pollutants to the streams tested and the organisms that live in them. Water that is dumped in the grass can be washed into the stream by rainfall. Pollutants in the stream can lead to eutrophication! Eutrophication is when a water system has excessive nutrient amounts.

This is harmful because plant life can absorb all of the nutrients and take over a water ecosystem. Once the plant life dies and decomposes, microbes that decompose the plant matter take all the oxygen in the water. Then the water has no oxygen, and the creatures living in the water have trouble surviving. The creekers will dispose of the waste water bottles correctly after everyone is done testing. Keep our streams healthy and put the waste in the bottle!





2017-2018 Creekers: Pictured, Back Row: Paul Sutkowski, Kala Mahen, Matt Hutchinson, Grace O'Malley, Wendy Kedzierski; Front Row: Melissa McCann, Bella Petitta, Mimi Zipparo, Bri O'Neil-Hankle; Not Pictured: Gretchen Barbera, Laura Branby, Cortney Carr, Brian Toma, Johanna Stanley

Feature Creature Answer from page 3:

Eastern Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*)

Connect with

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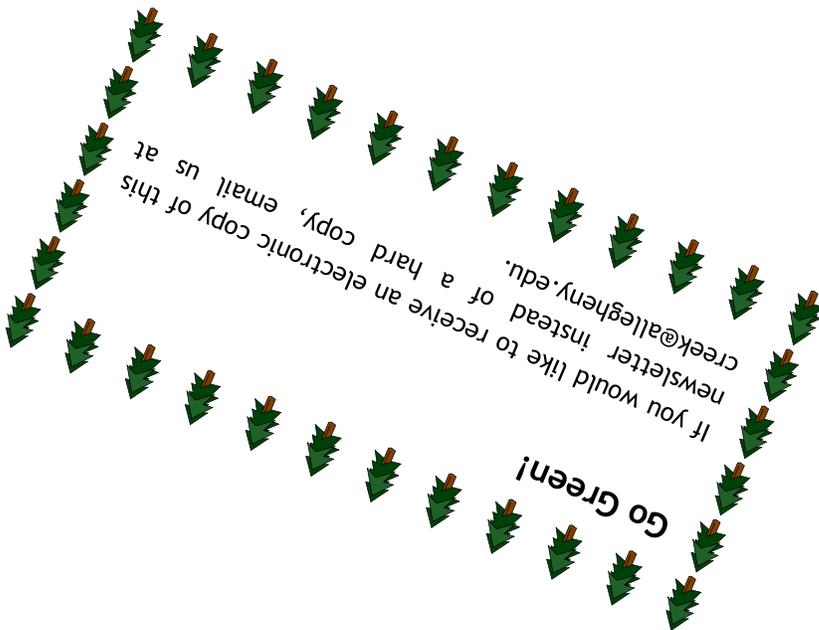
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